

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (previously presented): A content distribution system including a creator terminal, a distribution server and a client terminal, and configured such that said creator terminal provides a content item to said distribution server, and said distribution server stores the provided content item and supplies the stored content item to said client terminal in response to a request from said client terminal, wherein said creator terminal comprises

content item transmitting means for transmitting a content item for an examining purpose to said distribution server;

authoring tool requesting means for requesting an authoring tool to said distribution server, the authoring tool being used for converting into a predetermined format a content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server; and

uploading means for uploading a content item by using the authoring tool provided by said distribution server to upload the converted content item; and

wherein said distribution server comprises:

content item storing means for storing the content item for an examining purpose transmitted from the creator terminal;

registration permitting means for permitting creator registration on the basis of a judgment by an operator of the distribution server when the quality of the stored content item for an examining purpose is higher than a predetermined level and for transmitting permission for creator registration to said creator terminal;

authoring tool provision means for providing, in response to a request from said creator terminal, an authoring tool to said creator terminal when permission for creator registration is given to said creator terminal;

charge processing means for charging a fee to a user of said client terminal when a content item stored in said distribution server is supplied to said client terminal; and

distribution processing means for distributing a portion of the charged fee to a registered user of said creator terminal who has provided the content item.

Claim 2 (original): A content distribution system according to claim 1, wherein the content item is a piece of music, and said distribution server further comprises copyright processing means for executing processing in relation to copyright of a content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server.

Claims 3 and 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (original): A content distribution system according to claim 1, wherein said client terminal is a phone, and said content item is a piece of music used on the phone.

Claims 6-11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (previously presented): A content distribution method which is applied to a content distribution system including a creator terminal, a distribution server and a client terminal, and in which a content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server is stored in said distribution server, and the content item stored in said distribution server is supplied to said client terminal in response to a request from said client terminal, comprising the steps of:

- transmitting a content item for an examining purpose to said distribution server; and
- storing the content item for an examining purpose transmitted from the creator terminal;
- permitting creator registration on the basis of a judgment by an operator of the distribution server when the quality of the stored content item for an examining purpose is higher than a predetermined level;

- transmitting permission for creator registration to said creator terminal;
- requesting an authoring tool to said distribution server, the authoring tool being used for converting into a predetermined format a content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server;

- providing, in response to a request from said creator terminal, an authoring tool to said creator terminal when permission for creator registration is given to said creator terminal;

- uploading means for uploading a content item by using the authoring tool provided by said distribution server to upload the converted content item;

- charging a fee to a user of said client terminal when a content item stored in said distribution server is supplied to said client terminal; and

- distributing a portion of the charged fee to a registered user of said creator terminal who has provided the content item.

Claim 13 (original): A content distribution method according to claim 12, wherein the content item is a piece of music, and

said method further comprises the step of causing said distribution server to execute processing in relation to copyright of a content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server.

Claims 14 and 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (original): A content distribution method according to claim 12, wherein said client terminal is a phone, and said content item is a piece of music used on the phone.

Claims 17-22 (canceled)

Claim 23 (previously presented): A distribution server which is capable of communicating with a creator terminal and a client terminal and which stores a content item supplied from said creator terminal and distributes the stored content item to said client terminal in response to a request from said client terminal, comprising:

content item storing means for storing a content item for an examining purpose transmitted from the creator terminal;

registration permitting means for permitting creator registration on the basis of a judgment by an operator of the distribution server when the quality of the stored content item for an examining purpose is higher than a predetermined level and for transmitting permission for creator registration to said creator terminal;

receiving means for receiving a request for an authoring tool from said creator terminal, the authoring tool being used for converting into a predetermined format a content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server;

authoring tool provision means for providing, in response to the request from said creator terminal, an authoring tool to said creator terminal when permission for creator registration is given to said creator terminal;

receiving means for receiving an uploaded content item from the authoring tool provided by said distribution server to upload the converted content item;

charge processing means for charging a fee to a user of said client terminal when the a stored content item is supplied to said client terminal; and

distribution processing means for distributing a portion of the charged fee to a registered user of said creator terminal who has provided the content item.

Claim 24 (original): A distribution server according to claim 23, wherein the content item is a piece of music, and said distribution server further comprises copyright processing means for executing processing in relation to copyright of a content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server.

Claims 25 and 26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (original): A distribution server according to claim 23, wherein said client terminal is a phone, and said content item is a piece of music used on the phone.

Claims 28-33 (canceled)

Claim 34 (previously presented): A content distribution method applied to a distribution server which is capable of communicating with a creator terminal and a client terminal and which stores a content item supplied from said creator terminal and distributes the stored content item to said client terminal in response to a request from said client terminal, comprising the steps of:

- storing a content item for an examining purpose transmitted from the creator terminal;
- permitting creator registration on the basis of a judgment by an operator of the distribution server when the quality of the stored content item for an examining purpose is higher than a predetermined level;
- transmitting permission for creator registration to said creator terminal;
- receiving a request for an authoring tool from said creator terminal, the authoring tool being used for converting into a predetermined format a content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server;
- providing, in response to the request from said creator terminal, an authoring tool to said creator terminal when permission for creator registration is given to said creator terminal;
- receiving an uploaded content item from the authoring tool provided by said distribution server to upload the converted content item;
- charging a fee to a user of said client terminal when a stored content item is supplied to said client terminal; and
- distributing a portion of the charged fee to a registered user of said creator terminal who has provided the content item.

Claim 35 (original): A content distribution method according to claim 34, wherein the content item is a piece of music, and said method further comprises the step of executing processing in relation to copyright of a content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server.

Claims 36 and 37 (canceled)

Claim 38 (original): A content distribution method according to claim 34, wherein said client terminal is a phone, and said content item is a piece of music used on the phone.

Claims 39-44 (canceled)

Claim 45 (previously presented): A computer readable recording medium on which is recorded a distribution program applied to a distribution server which is capable of communicating with a creator terminal and a client terminal and which realizes processing for storing a content item supplied from said creator terminal and distributing the stored content item to said client terminal in response to a request from said client terminal, the distribution program executing:

- storing a content item for an examining purpose transmitted from the creator terminal;

- permitting creator registration on the basis of a judgment by an operator of the distribution server when the quality of the stored content item for an examining purpose is higher than a predetermined level;

- transmitting permission for creator registration to said creator terminal;

- receiving a request for an authoring tool from said creator terminal, the authoring tool being used for converting into a predetermined format a content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server;

- providing, in response to the request from said creator terminal, an authoring tool to said creator terminal when permission for creator registration is given to said creator terminal;

- receiving an uploaded content item from the authoring tool provided by said distribution server to upload the converted content item;

- charging a fee to a user of said client terminal when a stored content item is supplied to said client terminal; and

- distributing a portion of the charged fee to a registered user of said creator terminal who has provided the content item.

Claim 46 (original): A computer readable recording medium according to claim 45, wherein

the content item is a piece of music, and

said distribution program further executes processing in relation to copyright of a content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server.

Claims 47 and 48 (canceled)

Claim 49 (original): A computer readable recording medium according to claim 45, wherein said client terminal is a phone, and said content item is a piece of music used on the phone.

Claims 50-55 (canceled)

Claim 56 (previously presented): A content distribution system according to claim 1, said creator terminal further comprising

ID number requesting means for requesting the ID number to the distribution server; and

ID number receiving means for receiving the ID number transmitted from the distribution server and for storing the ID number; wherein

said content item transmitting means transmits the content item for an examining purpose together with the ID number to said distribution server, and

said distribution server further comprising:

ID number allotting means for allotting the ID number to said creator terminal to transmit the ID number in response to the request for the ID number from said creator terminal.

Claim 57 (canceled)